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Allen-Scott Report

Mid-East Red Guard Formed

By ROBERT S. ALLEN
and PAUL SCOTT

Mr. Allen

WASHINGTON — The Kremlin is organizing its own "red guard" for duty in the strife-torn Middle East.

Thousands of young Communists are being ordered "to volunteer for reconstruction work" in the Arab states.

These international brigades are being formed in the Soviet Union from the 23-million-member Young Communist League and from the Communist World Youth Federation in the Eastern European satellites.

The executive body of the Communist World Youth Federation also is reportedly considering a Moscow plan to seek volunteers outside the Soviet bloc. This recruitment could include young Communists in the U.S.

While civilian technicians and administrators are being enlisted in the drive, the prime mission of this "volunteer" youth army is believed to be paramilitary.

Most of the Soviet bloc recruits have or will receive military training before their departure for the Middle East, according to U.S. intelligence sources.

Reconstruction work in the Arab states, these sources point out, could mean driving Israel from territories occupied during the recent fighting and helping the Arabs nationalize U.S. oil operations.

Soviet military advisers also are pouring into Egypt and Syria in large numbers. First report of their activities indicates that priority is being given to the expansion of Arab commando-guerrilla type units.

This ominous military development appears to be closely linked to formation of the new international brigades of communist youths.

Since taking over as Russia's ambassador to Syria, Anatoly Barkovsky, a high ranking official in the Soviet Secret Police (KGB), has urged the formation of these units to train and operate with the Palestinian Arab refugees. He stressed that 50 per cent of the 2.2 million refugees were 18 and under and easily trained as terrorists.

Israeli's occupation forces inside Syria and Jordan now are logical targets for these commando-guerrilla units, whose bases are located in Syria's rugged mountains.

The recent appearance of the Soviet bloc youth at the Syrian bases with Russian military advisers is taken by Israel Intelligence as a clear indication that Barkovsky's strategy has been adopted.

Syria's far-left leaders — from Baath Party strongman Maj. Gen. Salah Jadid to Algerian war veteran Premier Youssef Jouayden — have confirmed this development in recent statements. Both officials reported Russia was helping to arm Arab refugees so the cease-fire line with Israel could be turned into "another Vietnam."

All of the actions of Egypt's President Nasser since the end of the first-round of fighting in the Middle East fit into this protracted war strategy.

On the urging of Soviet Ambassador Sergei Vinogradov, another KGB trained diplomat, Nasser is taking the position that the Suez Canal will remain closed as long as the Israelis hold any Egyptian territory.

Since Soviet technicians and not Israel military action caused the present blockage, U.S. intelligence authorities are convinced that the canal's closing was aimed more at Britain and the U.S. than at Israel.

The month-old shutdown of the canal and the Arab oil stoppage are having serious effects on the pattern of world shipping and on transportation costs for Britain and Western Europe.

If both continue, British diplomats have frankly warned U.S. officials that the price of gasoline could rise by 14 cents a gallon there before the end of the summer. Prices have jumped from one to two cents a gallon in Europe already.

The U.S. Air Force is looking in Spain for a replacement site for Wheelus Air Base, ordered closed by the Libyan government during the Middle East fighting. One base under consideration is near Zaragoza. Wheelus was the last major American

Air Force facility in Africa. The only other installations used by U.S. forces in Africa are an Army communications complex in Asmara, Ethiopia; a Navy air facility at Kenitra, Morocco, and a Navy communications station at Sidi Yahia, Morocco. Mikhael Bodrov, Soviet ambassador to Kuwait, is one of the ten top officials of the Soviet Secret Police (KGB). He was in charge of smuggling Soviet arms and Jewish refugees to Palestine after World War II and prior to the first Arab-Israeli war. Bodrov is a close friend of Yuri V. Andropov, head of the KGB and a non-voting member of the Politburo, highest organ of the Soviet Communist party.